

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1, 3, 9-13, 17-19, 21, 26, 28, and 32 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, 10, 13, 19, 21, 26, 28 and 32 are hereby amended. Claims 2, 4, 5- 8, 14, 15, 16, 20, 22-25, 27, 29-31, and 33 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Final Office Action of August 17, 2004 rejected claims 1, 3, 6, 9-13, 15-19, 21, 24-26, 28, and 30-32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0210252 to Ludtke et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,370,198 to Washino.

Independent claim 1, now recites in part as follows:

“...a first functional block... a second functional block...wherein said information pertaining to said first and second functional blocks stored within said memory includes type information of said first and second functional blocks and virtual plug information

of said first and second functional blocks and the virtual plug information of said second functional block contains information indicating that the input plug of said second functional block is connected to said first functional block..."

As understood by the Applicant, U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0210252 to Ludtke et al. (hereinafter, merely "Ludtke") relates to displaying on screen display graphics data from a source device on a display device through the use of an IEEE 1394-1995 serial bus network.

As understood by the Applicant, U.S. Patent No. 6,370,198 to Washino (hereinafter, merely "Washino") relates to a multi-format digital video production system that enable a user to process an input video program to produce an outputs version of the program in final format which may have a different frame rate and/or pixel dimensions.

Applicant submits that nothing has been found in the cited portions of Ludtke or Washino, taken alone or in combination, that would teach or suggest the above identified features of claim 1. Specifically, Applicant has found nothing in Ludtke or Washino that would teach or suggest the first and second blocks recited in claim 1. Applicant submits that the trigger bit disclosed in Ludtke does not teach or suggest a second functional block that terminates the data processed by said first functional block. Furthermore, Applicant submits that nothing in Ludtke or Washino teaches or suggests virtual plug information of said second functional block contains information indicating that the input plug of said second functional block is connected to said first functional block, as recited in claim 1. Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to claim 1, amended independent claims 19, 26, and 32 are believed to be patentable.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate the portion or portions of the reference or references providing the basis for a contrary view.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicant respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,
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